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Sunday
September 7, 1952

E. and I went with Frank Gowen and his wife at 10:00 this morning to Xochimilcho--about a 40 minute drive--where we embarked on a flat-bottomed boat for a cruise through the garden canal. Boats with musicians, others with flower vendors, still others with Indians selling cloth and serapes, floated beside us. It is an enchanting diversion. From there we drove to Chapultepec Castle, and wandered through its heavenly park, with its uniquely magnificent cedar trees. From Chapultepec, we made a rapid tour of the Lomas residential district. These expensive houses have sprouted like mushrooms [redacted] in a frenzy of lavish residential building.

E. and I lunched at the Jena, and at 3:00 o'clock went with John to the bullfight. It being out of season, the matadors were comparatively inexperienced, and the bulls smaller than those fought in the winter. For us, however, it was quite exciting enough, and a superb display of human and animal courage.

This is Brazilian Independence Day, so at 7:00 p.m. we went to a reception at the Brazilian Embassy. It was not overcrowded, since some hundreds of delegates went down to Acapulco for the week-end.

Afterwards E., John and I went to the Jena for onion soup, eggs benedict, and Chianti.

It is a joy to be here with John Snyder. He is so consistently thoughtful, gay and agreeable--[redacted] He has a remarkable memory for names, faces and historical incidents, and is the soul of hospitality.

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